

January 2015 - volume 101 - number 7

Celebrating the First RCM Scholar Graduate - Markesha Parker

In 2009, Rotary awarded its first three scholarships from the nascent RCM Scholarship Program. One of those awards went to Markesha Parker and on Saturday, December 13th, Markesha graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Industrial Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

Over her career as an RCM Scholar, she has benefited from the mentorship of Kathleen O'Brien and Jackie Herd-Barber – and she gives special credit to RCM Scholarship committee chair Eric Isbister, who employed her at GenMet, coached her professionally, and gave her a glowing recommendation when it came time to apply for her first full-time job. In fact, Markesha already has a full-time job lined up at Actuant Corporation in their Engineering Management Development program.



Eric Isbister and Markesha Parker

Markesha is a South Division High School graduate raised by a single mom who had faced quite a few struggles, including a brief period of homelessness. In her original scholarship essay, Markesha told us she thought of her life as a math problem. Five and half years later, the sum of her experiences, challenges and triumphs has added up to a mature young woman poised for success –our very first RCM Scholar graduate.

While Markesha has faced stress and challenges the last five years, especially managing limited time and financial resources, but has applied her personal values of perseverance and positivity to overcome roadblocks and grow as a student and person. She has given back by mentoring other young women interested in STEM fields. In 2013 she was recognized by UW-Platteville with the Student Woman of the year award and Excellence in Leadership Award. This year she received the Alliant Energy Achieve-

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Honoring Barbara Velez as a Leader Making a Difference

Periodically, the Rotary Club of Milwaukee honors “Leaders Making a Difference” – members of the club or community who go above and beyond in contributing to the work of the club in our on-going efforts to Make a Difference. At the 2014 Holiday luncheon, the club honored Barbara Velez.



Barbara Velez

Barbara has been extremely involved with Rotary for the last 8 years, serving tirelessly in several capacities with the Partners in Education committee and in our partner schools. It is her most recent initiative for which we honor Barbara today - the RCM Reading Initiative at Brown Street Academy. In the fall of 2012, under Barbara's leadership, PIE initiated the program at BSA, which is now in its third year. Barbara marshaled a small army of volunteers – Rotarians and UWM students - to tutor students needing help with reading. The tutors, under the guidance of classroom teachers, work in 12 classrooms during the MPS literacy instruction block running Monday through Friday mornings. Volunteers read with students one-on-one or in small groups.

Students, teachers and parents are extremely grateful for the extra time and attention – and the program is getting results. Barbara compared Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test scores from Fall to Spring each year to gauge the project's effectiveness. Comparing MAP scores from Fall and Spring showed improvement in every grade. Barbara has been extremely dedicated to this important, measurable initiative that brings Rotarians into schools to interact with MPS students on a daily basis – a huge effort that would not be possible without her.

For these reasons and more, the Rotary Club of Milwaukee has made Barbara a Paul Harris Fellow +1 and commends her as a Leader Making a Difference.

At the luncheon, Barbara shared a few stories of how Brown Street Academy children have been impacted by Rotary's efforts in

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Outstanding Participation 2014

Once again it's time to celebrate those with 100% participation in 2014 - those who have attended 50 or more Rotary activities throughout the year. Members can earn participation credits by attending social, Tyrotarian and volunteer events, as well as committee meetings or make-ups at other clubs. You can make-up here in Southeastern Wisconsin or around the world! Locate local and international clubs at rotary.org

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| 45 Years Paul Meyer | 11 Years Fred Bersch | 7 Years Bill Coleman Bill DeLind Kathie Eilers Dan Nelson Jeff Nelson Sister Kathleen O'Brien | 3 Years John Beckwith Jean Casey Beth Fetterley Heller |
| 25 Years By Foster | 10 Years George Liberatore John Wermuth | 6 Years Jon Dehlinger Chris Meyer | 2 Years Jack Marringa Chris Muellenbach Ann Navin George Solveson |
| 24 Years Jim Ford | 9 Years Tom Angerer Larry Bonney Bill Hattendorf Ron Kuramoto Jim Miller Jim Milner Phil Vollrath | 5 Years David Baum Dave Carter Dan Fetterley John Hein Eric Isbister Dave McClurg Kim Schaffer | 1 Year John Bernaden Maureen Bradley Bill Coleman Lloyd Dickinson Judy Haugland Matt Hunter Mike Kellman Dorothy Kerr Paula Penebaker Jerry Stepaniak Pat Swanson Dan Vliet JoAnn Weishan |
| 19 Years Jim Hunter | 8 Years Jim Barry Tom Gale Charlie James Rick Mandel Jill Pelisek Thelma Sias Barbara Velez | 4 Years Bob Slater Dennis Tamcsin Arthur Wasserman | |
| 18 Years Harry Drake Larry Clancy | | | |
| 13 Years Jackie Herd-Barber Chris Jaekels | | | |
| 12 Years Joe Caruso Dick Hackl Ted Hutton Detlef Moore | | | |

Honoring Barbara Velez as a Leader Making a Difference *continued from page 1*

the school - and how her own life has been shaped by the service of others. "If you haven't had time to share your largesse, taking the time matters," Barbara said, "Pay it forward, make the time, it will pay huge dividends in the future. I know, because I've lived it."

If you would like to volunteer your time in an RCM Partner School – as little as once a month, or as often as once a day! – contact the Rotary office. As a new academic semester approaches, now is a great time to get involved. ☺

PHOTO gallery



Rotarians rang bells for the Salvation Army in December! From left: Jean Casey and her sisters; Mary Ellen Bowers and John Bernaden, Bill DeLind.

Kelly Skindzelewski and David & Melissa Watts distributed Reading is Fundamental books at Allen Field School.



Skylight Music Theatre performer Ryan Cappleman serenades Sister Camille Kliebhan at the holiday luncheon.



Dave Carter and Tom Bentley (above) and the Fetterley family (below) enjoyed the Holiday festivities at Blu at the Pfister.

Celebrating the First RCM Scholar Graduate - Markesha Parker *continued from page 1*

ment Award and the UW-Platteville Chancellor's Medallion Award, which recognizes outstanding leadership by a senior.

We celebrated Markesha's graduation at our holiday luncheon on December 16th. Markesha shared her journey and thanked the club for its support: "The Rotary Scholarship program has helped me to be a better example of how being raised in a difficult environment did not consume me nor corrupt me of accomplishing my goals. I hope I can serve as an example to show Rotarians that your financial and academic support is not in vain. Thank you for providing me with mentors and networks that have supported me up to this point and beyond. Thank you for all the unconditional love, continuing guidance, advice and support that you have given me throughout my personal and college experience."

Markesha will always be part of our Rotary family – in fact, she would love to pass on what she has learned by eventually becom-

ing a mentor to future RCM Scholars. The entire Rotary Club of Milwaukee salutes Markesha for her achievement! 🌀



Rotarians Jim Miller and Art Wasserman cheered Markesha on at her graduation.

Appreciation for Rotary's Work on the Johnsons Park Initiative from County Executive Chris Abele

The Rotary office received a note of appreciation for the club's work on the Johnsons Park Initiative from County Executive Chris Abele which reads:

"Thank you for your incredible work with the Johnsons Park Initiative. We appreciate your incredible support for Milwaukee's parks and value your passion and commitment to improving them. The Rotary Club of Milwaukee has played a pivotal role in facilitating donations that will provide the necessary improvements to create a safe place for the community to enjoy nature and play. With your help, we expect a significant increase in public access that will allow the Milwaukee community to enjoy Johnsons Park to the fullest."

The County demolished the old pavilion at Johnsons Park at the end of November, and the project remains on track for completion by September 2015. 🌀



Demolition of the old Johnsons Park pavilion. *Photos courtesy of the Center for Resilient Cities*



Edgar Lin

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Growing up, Edgar Lin lived in northern California, Taipei Taiwan, and Texas. He attended Rutgers College in New Brunswick, New Jersey. While in college, he interned at a fashion advertising firm in Manhattan. After graduating with a degree in Economics, he worked at Lehman Brothers in their investment banking division—corporate finance in Hong Kong, and later, Tokyo. He left Lehman in 2007 and traveled across Asia while applying for law school. He attended UW-Madison Law School and was hired as an assistant public defender upon graduation. He is a recipient of the 2014 Up and Coming Lawyer award from the WI Law Journal. He enjoys rock climbing, wine tasting, and motorcycling.

BOARD APPROVES NEW MEMBERS

At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors welcomed one new member and expressed thanks to the proposer:

Mark Kannenberg
RBP Chemical Technology
Manufacturing - Chemical
Proposer: By Foster

SPEAKER *schedule*

JANUARY 6th - This joint meeting with the Milwaukee Press Club features new Milwaukee Bucks president **Peter Feigin**, who will be interviewed by a panel of Milwaukee journalists.

JANUARY 13th - Master networker **Joe Sweeney** has delivered hundreds of keynotes since the release of his New York Times best-selling book, *Networking Is a Contact Sport*. He heard a consistent refrain from CEOs, vice presidents, business people, and college graduates following his presentations: “Can you help move the needle at our company and improve performance on a consistent basis?” Joe’s latest book, *Moving the Needle: Get Clear, Get Free and Get Going in Your Business, Career and Life*, is about changing human behavior. Joe will deliver some lessons from *Moving the Needle* designed to help define goals, focus efforts, and give you tools that will help you get clear, get free and get going in your professional and personal life.

JANUARY 20th - **Paul C. Brophy**, a city planning consultant who specializes in older industrial cities, has been working with city government, M7, and a consortium of foundations on economic growth strategies for the city and metro area and on

ways of improving Milwaukee's neighborhoods. One result of the work is that Mr. Brophy is bullish on the future of Milwaukee, despite the many challenges we face. Mr. Brophy will present his views on Milwaukee from his national vantage point.

JANUARY 27th - **Doug Hagerman**, senior vice president, general counsel and secretary at Rockwell Automation, will talk about having authentic conversations about ethics in the workplace. When ethics and integrity become part of your culture, they are a differentiator and a competitive advantage. Authentic conversations about ethics leave no room for doubt that the company and its leaders are serious about doing what is right. To do this, make it personal, make it relevant, and make it a team sport. Your organization will then be well on its way to creating a culture of integrity. Rockwell Automation has been named six times as “One of the World’s Most Ethical Companies” by the Ethisphere Institute. In 2012, the national Better Business Bureau gave their highest honor -- The International Torch Award – to Rockwell Automation for advancing trust and integrity in the marketplace.

Spotlight on the Good Works of the RCM Community Trust:

Future Milwaukee Program

The Rotary Club of Milwaukee has been involved with community leadership program Future Milwaukee for many years. In fact, Past President Bill Randall was one of the founders of the program in 1977. Originally operated as an independent corporation, in 2005 Future Milwaukee aligned itself with the College of Professional Studies at Marquette. For over 35 years, participants have been making an impact on the Greater Milwaukee area through their leadership positions in government, business, education, religious and non-profit institutions.

For the last 11 years, RCM has offered a fellowship to a Future Milwaukee graduate, chosen by the Community Leadership and Development committee. The fellowship is for a 3-year membership in the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, with the expectation that the fellow will participate as a full Rotary member – attending lunches, participating on committees, volunteering – and continue as a Rotarian after the fellowship ends. The goal is to foster an active relationship between Future Milwaukee and Rotary.



2012 Future Milwaukee Fellow Ann Navin

Ann Navin, Rotary’s 2012 Future Milwaukee Fellow, says: “I’m so glad I pursued the fellowship opportunity, even though at the time I didn’t know much about Rotary. As I’ve learned over the last 2 ½ years, Future Milwaukee and Rotary share the same vision. FM participants and Rotarians are passionate about Milwaukee and building a strong, healthy community. Both organizations are greater than the sum of their parts, due in large part to the commitment and leadership of the participants. It’s a valuable partnership.”

In an effort to strengthen ties between the two organizations, the CLD committee has worked to make it easier for more people to apply to the fellowship - it is now open to current Future Milwaukee students and alumni from the last 5 years. You can find the application linked on our website.

Rotary also hosted a FM session in October, and we are excited to have Christine Hill, the FM Executive Director, as a new Rotarian and member of the CLD committee.



Jessica Boling, Rotaract

And in recent years, the club has offered 50% Future Milwaukee scholarships to Rotaract members, funded by the RCM Community Trust. Jessica Boling, our current Future Milwaukee scholarship recipient, says: "FutureMilwaukee has been a great way for me to experience Milwaukee from a unique perspective. Additionally, I have had the chance to explore and grow new interpersonal skills in a safe environment. The program pushes you in all the right ways; to those uncomfortable points you couldn't get to on your own but you know you need in order to be a better leader for your community."

RCM is excited to continue partnering with Future Milwaukee to build great leaders and Rotary connections. If you are interested in learning about Rotarians’ personal experiences in Future Milwaukee, our club is full of FM Alumni, including:

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| Christy Brown | Paul Mathews |
| Kevin Carr | Mary McCormick |
| Joe Dannecker | Chris Meyer |
| Al Durtka | Karine Moreno-Taxman |
| Dan Fetterley | George Mosher |
| Patty Flowers | Tim Posnanski |
| Deborah Fugenschuh | Joan Prince |
| Jim Gormley | Terry Rice |
| Dick Hackl | Rob Sholl |
| Erin Hareng | Thelma Sias |
| Kristine Hinrichs | Tracy Sparrow |
| Megan Holbrook | Heather Turner Loth |
| Ron Kuramoto | Dan Vliet |
| Vincent Lyles | Wendell Willis  |

